

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

September 25, 2012

The *2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health* found that some 2.6 million people received specialty treatment for a substance use disorder and more than 31.3 million adults aged 18 or older received services for mental health problems in the past year. Mental and substance abuse disorders affect people throughout our communities and half of all adults know someone who is in recovery from an addiction to alcohol, illicit drugs, or prescription drugs.

The impact of these disorders is enormous, as mental health problems such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia are the leading cause of disability in the United States, and account for 25 percent of years lost to disability and premature mortality. These disorders also harm our economy, and it is estimated that the total economic costs of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders just among youth in the United States is over \$245 billion. While there are more than 20 million people in recovery from substance use disorders today there are millions more who still need help.

Every September the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration teams with national and local partners to promote awareness about the

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societal benefits of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental and substance use disorders; celebrate people in recovery; laud the contributions of treatment and service providers; and promote the message that recovery in all its forms is possible.

This year, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Division is partnering with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and our local substance abuse treatment and behavioral health services providers to celebrate National Recovery Month with the theme "It's Worth It." This important effort deserves our full support.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaims September 2012 as "National Recovery Month" in Los Angeles County, encouraging all residents to attend appropriate events and support those in need of substance abuse disorder treatment in seeking help, and further, requesting all health and human service agencies in Los Angeles County to observe "National Recovery Month" by promoting opportunities for those in recovery to give back to their communities by assisting others through peer-to-peer recovery.

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